

Remarks:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed September 20, 2004 Applicant would first like to thank Examiner Dinh for indicating the allowance of claims 1-9 and 12-15 and the allowability of (objection to) claims 21 and 22. To this end, Applicant has amended claim 21 by rewriting this claim as an independent claim and submits that claims 21 and 22 are likewise allowable over the art of record.

With respect to the drawings, submitted herewith is a corrected drawing sheet (sheet 3 of 5) in which the reference numeral 60 has been changed to reference letter w (two occurrences, once each in FIGS. 4 and 5).

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Liburdi, U.S. Patent No. 4,541,174, in view of Coldren, U.S. Patent No. 4,214,361. The Examiner has characterized Liburdi as disclosing a method for making a connector for connecting an associated electrical component having a tab type electrical terminal to an associated conductor that includes forming a plurality of connector housing bases, forming a plurality of contacts on a contact carrier (with the contacts at a second predetermined distance from each contact), aligning a first of the plurality of contacts with first of the plurality of bases and securing the contacts in the bases with which they are aligned. The Examiner concedes that Liburdi fails to disclose the housing base carrier, but states that Coldren discloses a housing base carrier and concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Liburdi to provide the housing base as taught by Coldren to simplify separation of the housing.

The method of claim 18 is directed to making a connector for connecting an associated electrical component having a tab-type electrical terminal to an associated conductor. The method, unlike the Liburdi patent includes the steps of forming a plurality of connector housing bases on a housing base carrier spaced a first predetermined distance from each other, forming a plurality of contacts on a contact carrier spaced a second predetermined distance from each other aligning the contacts with the housing bases and securing the contacts in the housing bases with which they are aligned.

Liburdi simply does not disclose independently forming two separate sets of components on carriers, aligning the components on their respective carriers and securing the respective components to one another as they are aligned.

Unlike the presently claimed invention, Liburdi appears to still require the manual handling and manipulation of separate and distinct components. The present invention, on the other hand provides for a strip or carrier executed method for assembling the contacts and housings for making electrical connectors. Liburdi fails to disclose this two-aligned strip-formed method of assembling components.

The Coldren patent fails to “complete” the claimed method in that like Liburdi, Coldren still requires the manual handling and manipulation of component parts. That is, the individual conductors (6) and contacts (10) are not shown to be positioned within the housings (8) through any strip-formed or carrier-formed process. Although the Examiner has concluded that combining the disclosures of the Liburdi and Coldren patents would make the invention of claim 18 obvious, such an assertion fails to consider the totality of the strip-formed or carrier-formed process and the problems that the claimed methods overcome – that is, the claimed method alleviates the need for manually manipulating the individual, small contact and housing components to make the connectors. In essence, there is nothing that would suggest, teach or motivate one to align the two component strips to assemble the connectors.

In summary, Applicant submits that claims 18 and claims 19-20 as they depend from claim 18, are allowable over the art of record and respectfully and earnestly solicit early indication of same.

Applicant believes that there is no fee due in connection with the present amendment. If however, there is a fee due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should any petitions be necessary, Applicant requests that this paper constitute such petition.

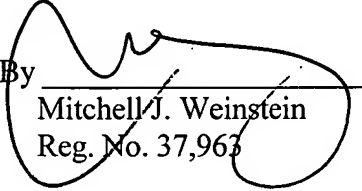
Serial No. 10/092,078
Art Unit 2839

Amendment C

Should Examiner Dinh believe that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, or address any outstanding formal issues, it is respectfully requested that undersigned be contacted.

Respectfully submitted,

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